

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that to perfect priority based upon an application filed in Ireland on 1/11/1999 a certified copy of the application must be filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. However, it is Applicants attorney's understanding that pursuant to MPEP § 1893.03(c) and PCT Rule 17, this requirement has been fulfilled by the submission of a certified copy of the S990016 application with the International Bureau (WIPO) within 16 months from the priority date of January 11, 1999 and that the International Bureau is to forward a photocopy of the certified priority document with the international application to each Designated Office. This photocopy of the priority document is acceptable to establish that applicant has filed a certified copy of the priority document. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that priority has been perfected.

In an effort to assist the Examiner in establishing that the claim of priority has been properly alleged, a certified copy of the Irish Application is submitted herewith. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claim of priority to the January 11, 1999 filing of the Irish Application No. S990016 has been perfected.

CONCLUSION

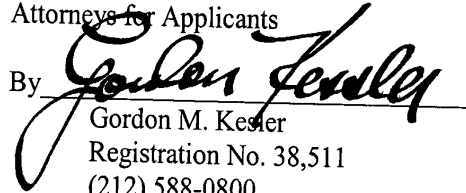
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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